

I. Amendments to the Claims

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method for starting a vehicle, said vehicle comprising a vehicle engine, a starter motor linked to said vehicle engine through an engine clutch, and a plurality of vehicle systems linked to said starter motor, said method comprising the steps of:

- starting said starter motor;
- checking the status of one or more of said vehicle systems to determine whether said vehicle engine should be started;
- applying a torque to said vehicle engine by connecting said vehicle engine with said starter motor through said engine clutch; and
- confirming whether said vehicle engine has successfully started.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- providing a multi-position ignition switch linked to said starter motor;
- recognizing the initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine; and
- detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is in a pre-determined position.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- providing a multi-position ignition switch linked to said starter motor;
- recognizing the initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine;
- detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is not positioned in a pre-determined position for a set length of time; and
- shutting down the starter motor.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said vehicle further comprises a set of gears linked to said starter motor through a transmission clutch, said initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine comprising at least one member of the following group:

- the engagement of said set of gears;
- the engagement of said transmission clutch;
- the engagement of said engine clutch; and
- the operation of said vehicle.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of checking the status of one or more engine systems further comprises the steps of:

- evaluating the amount of time said vehicle engine has idled without a start attempt; and
- detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is in a pre-determined position.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of shutting down said starter motor if the amount of time said vehicle engine has idled reaches a predetermined length.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of confirming whether said vehicle engine has successfully started further comprises the steps of:

- evaluating whether the current angular velocity of said vehicle engine is greater than that of the vehicle engine while idle;
- evaluating the time said vehicle engine has been cranking without starting, if said vehicle engine's speed is less than idle speed; and
- shutting down said starter motor if said time of cranking is greater than a pre-determined length of time.